

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of verifying the accuracy or authenticity of alphanumeric magnetic data on a document, wherein:
 - (a) the configuration of a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in the document is made visible by bringing movable particulate magnetic material into proximity therewith such that the particulate magnetic material takes up a distribution corresponding to the magnetic field of the reference image; and
 - (b) the magnetic image configuration thus revealed is compared with the reference image to identify any significant disconformity suggesting past exposure of the document to a magnetic field capable of altering said magnetic data or images.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the document also carries visible information.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, in which the document carries a layer of magnetic material which has a coercivity which is substantially uniform across its area.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, in which the document comprises a pair of laminated outer sheets between

which is a magnetic layer comprising magnetically-activatable particles in a binder matrix, the outer sheet having sufficient opacity to mask the appearance of the magnetic layer.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said outer sheets are of natural or synthetic paper.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~either claim 4 or claim 5~~, wherein the magnetic layer is formed by a coating on the inwardly facing surface of one or both of the outer sheets, or by a laminating adhesive which is applied as or just before the two outer sheets are brought together in a laminating press or similar equipment.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 4 to 6, in which at least one outer sheet carries a pigment/binder coat on its inward facing surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 4 to 7, at least one of the outer sheets being provided on its outward facing surface with a coating which comprises either microcapsules containing a solution of at least one chromogenic material, or dispersed droplets containing at least one chromogenic material in a pressure-rupturable matrix, or a colour developer composition, or both microcapsules containing at least one chromogenic material and also a colour developer.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of storing alphanumeric magnetic data on a document and subsequently confirming its authenticity, which comprises storing a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image on the document; writing said alphanumeric magnetic data to the document; and subsequently verifying the accuracy or authenticity of said alphanumeric magnetic data by a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A document or other sheet product suitable for verification by a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 44 which comprises magnetic material which has a coercivity which is substantially uniform across its area, and which carries a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in addition to alphanumeric magnetic data.

11. (Currently Amended) A document or other sheet product suitable for verification by a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 8 which comprises a pair of laminated outer sheets between which is a magnetic layer comprising magnetically-activatable particles in a binder matrix, the outer sheet having sufficient opacity to mask the appearance of the magnetic layer, and which carries a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in addition to alphanumeric magnetic data.

12. (Cancelled)